

Sent in to  
Board of Regents -



May 1904

Queen's Park,  
Toronto,

TO THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT OF ANNESLEY HALL,

LADIES,-

I have the honor to present to you the report of the Dean of Annesley Hall for the academic year 1903-4.

When the strike of last July occurred, it seemed scarcely possible that the Hall would be ready for the incoming students on October first. When after answering upward of one hundred letters giving information and terms, there were on September first only five rooms taken, it looked much as if half the hall would suffice to accommodate those desiring residence. But contrary to expectations, on September thirty the last load of furniture arrived, on October first only five rooms were vacant, and those were filled by November first. The report of the Director of the Household, to whose indefatigable labor we are indebted for the readiness of the building, will give you an idea of the many difficulties at the beginning, and of how much effort was put forth in the month preceding the opening.

There have been during the year sixty three different residents, only fifty-six of whom have been here at one time. Of these, Thirty-five were undergraduates of Victoria, thirteen of Varsity, eight were specialists registered at Victoria, and seven music or other students. Thirteen Victoria students held scholarships which altogether amounted to \$351. These are of the value of \$33 each and are offered to Victoria students of good standing who have





*Queen's Park,  
Toronto,*

2

either been teachers, or are Methodist ministers' daughters. A Committee of three assigns them, and none but its members, and those giving and receiving the scholarships know who are in residence on those terms.

There are in all forty single rooms and eight double ones. The price of the former ranges from \$100.00 per year to \$200.00. There are two rooms at \$200, three at \$190.00 one at \$185.00, seven at \$175. twenty-one at \$165. 0, four at \$160.00, and two small rooms at \$132.00. The double ones are at \$12.00 each uniformly. Hence the average paid for a single room is \$169.00 The highest price paid is six dollars a week, the lowest four. These terms include board, lodging, physical culture, doctor's examination, and all privileges of the building, but do not include laundry.

All but four of the sixty-three residents underwent the medical examination of Dr. Davis, and were assigned the exercises most suitable to them. It was optional with the seniors to take physical culture, and only one did not. There have been two classes of half an hour each, five times a week, but nearly all the students chose the early one.

The work has been done well, the interest has been kept up, and the general health of the young ladies much improved by the regular exercise. The wisdom of the doctor's examination is shown in the fact that two of our residents required special treatment for the





*Queen's Park,  
Toronto,*

3

spine, and in one of these cases the girl's life will probably be many years longer for the timely discovery that she needed such treatment. The report of the Director of the gymnasium will give fuller particulars.

In regard to finance, I have much pleasure in informing you that in all probability the income will equal the expenditure. The following is the statement of receipts and expenditure. It must be borne in mind, however, that there are the bills of the five months yet before October next to meet out of what looks a large sum on hand, so that judging by the past months, there will not probably be any surplus by the end of September.

I would further point out that the bills for the later months are heavier than for the earlier ones, in as much as a better table is set; that the \$351 of the scholarships has been a yearly gift, which may not be continued another year, that the Massey estate has paid for all repairs in the building; that in future the bills for repairs will increase, that at the present the windows should be made to open at the top, the north west rooms, and south, should have ~~large~~ windows and larger radiators, and the furniture require renewing and that, therefore, all endowment is a real necessity.

I am sometimes asked what the duties of the Dean are, in answer to this question: She is responsible first for the





*Queen's Park,  
Toronto,*

4

Christian and moral tone of the Hall, for its government, and for the discipline of its residents, as head of the institution she must take her place intelligently in matters pertaining to education. She should be conversant with University politics, and as wise as the Registrar concerning the curriculum. She should come actively into touch with the students at their lectures, and in the college halls. She must watch the tendencies of the students, endeavor to grasp them and cope with them, for the sake of Victoria and the education of our country. She must take her part in social life, and provide social life for the students in the Hall. She conducts prayers, nurses all the sick, which not infrequently means three or four days of continued attention, cares for the health of the residents, must be in a position to advise the residents when they wish advice, must attend all Victoria functions, take her share in them, and act as chaperone when needed. She allots all rooms, receives all money, pays all cheques, transacts all business except the buying for the kitchen, does all the correspondence, which since 1st July has amounted to 368 letters, has a general oversight of the property of the Hall, gives reports when desired, gets out the announcement, and sits on committees as required. She makes out the practice hours of the piano students, sees to getting tickets for special entertainments, attends to railway tickets at vacation time, and last but not least, she is final referee in disputes and the repository of all fault-finding and blame both

194





*Queen's Park,*

*Toronto,*

5

from within and without.

With your permission I should like to speak plainly regarding certain matters, and to ask your advice about them.

One year is scarcely long enough to have a true understanding of the things that be, but with your greater experience and knowledge you will be able to decide whether what is said is justifiable or not.

First. There is something wrong about university or student life which brings our young women to their final year, and sends them out as nearly physical wrecks as they are. My observation leads me to believe that the fault lies not in too heavy a curriculum, nor in too severe studies, but in the excess of social life in the fall term which causes students to postpone all earnest effort until the New Year or later. Twice this year have I been frankly told that the social side of college life is the most valuable part of it.

The present emphasis of the social side is perhaps a reaction against a too onesided student life, but at the same time nothing can take the place of the discipline of good conscientious, faithful, continuous work. Not half of the undergraduates in the Hall have done such work this year. If in some way more stress could be laid upon term work, especially the work of the first term, much more serious effort would be put forth, and with better final results.

1916





*Queen's Park,  
Toronto,*

6

Secondly, the excess of societies and committee meetings, especially the latter is much to blame.

Some of our young ladies attend three committee meetings in one day. This diffusion of effort, I observe, leads to superficiality of work and to hasty preparation, neither of which things is fitting for the sober work of life.

Thirdly: I do, not observe that the present social life is of a high order. There are good reasons, no doubt, why much of the social life should be centred in the college, but as long as students are so bound up in themselves and in each other, that their elders occupy little place in either their esteem or their plans, as long as they neglect what some one call the "beautiful convention of manners", their spirit is not such as will serve to best develop their highest character. One is reminded of St. Paul's words "But they measuring themselves by themselves and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise".

The best thing to be said of the past year is that two of our residents have found their Saviour, yet it is with sorrow I confess there has been a great lack of deep spiritual power, and the working out of the highest principles of Christianity. The spirit of self forgetfulness and self sacrifice has dwelt little among us.

We hope and pray for better things next year.

1916





*Queen's Park,  
Toronto,*

7

In conclusion - We are sincerely grateful to God for the measure of success which has this year been granted. It is too soon yet to predict real success or failure, but we trust that as the years go by we shall feel that the Residence is fulfilling for our students our highest hopes and desires.

I crave your indulgence for so long and detailed a report but as this is the first year, it has seemed necessary to speak more at length than will be needful in the future.





The **Margaret Eaton School Digital Collection** is a not-for-profit resource created in 2014-2015 to assist scholars, researchers, educators, and students to discover the Margaret Eaton School archives housed in the Peter Turkstra Library at Redeemer University College. Copyright of the digital images is the property of Redeemer University College, Ancaster, Canada and the images may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email digital images for individual non-commercial use. To learn more about this project or to search the digital collection, go to <http://libguides.redeemer.ca/mes>.